

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Christophe Ronsin et al.  
Title: Peptide Compounds Derived From A Shifted ORF of the iCE Gene  
Serial No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: December 28, 2001

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

**In the Claims:**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) (3), please substitute for pending claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 13-31 with the following clean version of the claims. The changes to these claims are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version of Claims."

A' 3. (Once Amended) A peptide compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one element other than natural amino acids.

AD 6. (Once Amended) A method for revealing artificial point modifications or mutations which are capable of increasing the immunogenicity of the peptide compounds as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- a) Determining fragments which possess a sequence of approximately 9 to 10 amino acids comprising an anchoring motif for a given HLA molecule,
- b) introducing an additional point modification (for example a post-